

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02326 291444Z

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7232

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, GH

SUB: PRINCE CHARLES VISIT

1. PRINCE CHARLES VISITED GHANA FROM MAR 17-25 IN CONNECTION WITH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF ACHIMOTA SCHOOL. HE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BOTH IN ACCRA AND ON UP-COUNTRY TRIP TO KUMASI AND BOLGATANGA, WHERE ELABORATE DURBARS WERE HELD IN HIS HONOR. HE WAS RELAXED, WITTY AND WORKED HARD TO MAKE VISIT A SUCCESS. DESPITE ONE OR TWO INEVITABLE SNAFUS, GOG LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR VISIT DID NOT UNRAVEL.

2. LOCAL PRESS

GAVE GREAT ATTENTION TO PRINCE, COVERING IN DETAIL HIS TRAVELS IN GHANA AND VISITS TO AKOSOMBO DAM, VOLTA ALUMINIUM CO. PLANT, AND STAFF COLLEGE, MILITARY ACADEMY, ETC. GHANAIAN TIMES STRESSED DEPT TIES BINDING GHANA AND UK AND JUDGED THAT "REGARDLESS OF DISAGREE-

MENTS WHICH NATURALLY ARISE OVER ISSUES AFFECTING THE DESTINY OF THE COUNTRY AND AFRICA, GHANAIS ARE NOT LIKELY TO SHED THEIR FONDNESS FOR BRITAIN IN THE
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FORESEEABLE FUTURE." PAPER SAID ACHEAMPONG WAS SPEAKING FOR ALL GHANAIS WHEN HE TOLD PRINCE THAT GHANA'S CRITICISM OF BRITAIN OVER HANDLING OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WAS NOT AN ACT OF UNFRIENDLINESS. DAILY GRAPHIC SAID VISIT HAD DONE MUCH TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN GHANA AND UK AND COMMENDED HIM FOR VISITING NORTHERN PART OF GHANA.

3. PRINCE SEEMED TO BEAR UP WELL UNDER DEMANDING SCHEDULE BUT HEAT AND FATIGUE WERE WEARING HIM DOWN A BIT BY END OF TOUR. FROM BRITISH POINT OF VIEW, VISIT WAS ENTIRELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE. GOG LAID ON PAGEANTRY WITH A SKILLFUL HAND AND USED VISIT TO GIVE A BADLY-NEEDED STAMP OF LEGITIMACY TO REGIME, LINKING VISIT TO PREVIOUS ROYAL TRIPS TO GHANA (PRINCE OF WALES, 1925, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, 1959, QUEEN ELIZABETH, 1961). ACHEAMPONG AT BANQUET IN HONOR OF PRINCE SAID VISIT WAS "A HAPPY CONTINUATION AND REMINDER OF MUCH-CHERISHED LINKS BETWEEN GHANA AND THE ROYAL HOUSE OF WINDSOR" AND REAFFIRMED GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO COMMONWEALTH.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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